

Education Accreditation. Such activities have helped raise the bar for educational institutions around the country and earned him the respect of his peers nationwide. In the words of Miami University President James Garland, whose school has long enjoyed a healthy rivalry with Ohio University: "When it comes to defending budgets and advancing policies in the interest of higher education, Bob has been a leader in the state . . . I have as much respect for him as a university president as anyone I've ever met."

I am grateful, as I know others throughout southeast Ohio are that Dr. Glidden has expressed an interest in continuing his service to Ohio University, albeit in a more modest fashion, during retirement. His passion for education and the doors it opens make him a most valuable ally for the students of today and the leaders of tomorrow. Thank you, Bob, for your service. Go Bobcats.●

#### AMERICAN LEGACY FOUNDATION

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an organization that has done so much good in our country. I am happy to be able to congratulate the American Legacy Foundation on its 5-year anniversary. Five years ago, the American Legacy Foundation was born out of the Master Settlement Agreement, MSA. As we are all aware, the States' lawsuits against the major cigarette companies explicitly required Sates to spend certain amounts of their settlement payments on tobacco-prevention efforts and to advance public health.

I would like to personally commend those organizations, such as the American Legacy Foundation, who have worked tirelessly for 5 years to reduce smoking in our Nation. Smoking is now at its lowest level in nearly three decades. This did not happen by chance. It happened because States and communities all across this great Nation, led by the American Legacy Foundation, challenged and continue to challenge the tobacco industry.

Whether it is an award-winning youth counter marketing campaign, or "Great Start," an innovative cessation program for pregnant women, there is no denying the fact that programs such as these have successfully convinced teens, pregnant women and older adults that they can quit smoking.

In closing my remarks, I encourage my colleagues to remain committed to the spirit of the Master Settlement Agreement, so that we can eliminate tobacco addiction altogether. By squelching America's smoking habit, it is my hope that we can achieve the vision of a smoke-free society.●

#### WE THE PEOPLE NATIONAL FINALS COMPETITION

● Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, from May 1-3, 2004 more than 1200 students from across the United States came to

Washington, DC to take part in the national finals of "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution." This is the most extensive program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the "We the People" program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am very proud to note that a class from Cheyenne Central High School in Cheyenne represented the State of Wyoming in this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our Nation's capital and compete at the national level.

The 3-day "We the People" National Finals Competition is modeled after hearings in the U.S. Congress. The students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge before a panel of adult judges while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by questions designed to probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge. Columnist David Broder once described this annual competition as "the place to come to have your faith in the younger generation restored."

Most recently, the "We the People" program was highlighted at two national conferences held in 2003: the White House Forum on American History, Civics, and Service, and the first annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education. Evaluations and independent studies have validated the effectiveness of the "We the People" program on students' civic knowledge and attitudes. This innovative civic education program continues to be one of the best antidotes to apathy and cynicism in our Nation.

I am certain everyone enjoyed their participation in the "We the People" national finals and I applaud the achievements of all who took part in the program. We should all be proud that so many are focused on and are learning about the fundamental principles and ideals that identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation.●

#### MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize three outstanding teachers from my home State of Louisiana who will be honored by the Milken Family Foundation with the Milken Educator Award at their National Educator Conference here in Washington. The Milken Family Foundation was established in 1982 with the mission to discover and advance inventive and effective ways of helping people to help themselves and those around them lead productive and satis-

fying lives. On May 4-6 they will be holding their National Educator Conference in Washington, DC.

With a major focus on education, the Milken Family Foundation is committed to recognizing and rewarding the Nation's most outstanding educators and helping them to expand their leadership and potential. This year, the Milken Family Foundation has recognized Amanda Mayeaux, a math teacher at Dutchtown Middle School, Phyllis Diecidue, a reading teacher at St. Bernard High School, and Josh Michael Burton, a biology teacher at Albany High School, all from the State of Louisiana. They are among one hundred teachers who were selected from across the country to receive this very prestigious \$25,000 award.

When I think back to my education, I remember many inspiring teachers who helped make me who I am today. Without highly qualified teachers who are dedicated to the success of every student, my colleagues and myself would most certainly not be where we are today. Today, research is confirming what common sense has suggested all along. A skilled and knowledgeable teacher can make an enormous difference on how well students learn. As we look towards the future of our country and the sustainability of our democracy, we must look to our children, the future leaders. The future of our workforce and our country depends on our ability to recruit and retain qualified teachers in our classrooms, who will help our children become active and responsible citizens. Often times teachers are not recognized for the challenges and struggles which they encounter each and every day and tremendous significance of their work. We must remember that it is our Nation's teachers who are in the trenches each and every day ensuring that our children gain the knowledge and skills that they will need to be successful.

As we in Congress continue to focus on education reform and ensuring that all children have access to the same quality education, it is important that we also take a moment to recognize the teachers who work hard every day to ensure that our children are succeeding. It is because of the hard work and dedication of these teachers that our children can set their sights towards a bright future. I know that my colleagues here in the Senate join me today in congratulating these exceptional educators and the other ninety-seven teachers from around the country who were recognized with this high honor.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.